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LETTER DATED 10 JANUARY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour of transmitting to you herewith a letter dated 9 January 1993 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the Security Council statement of 8 January 1993.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and the attached letter of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, referred to above, circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 9 January 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

With reference to the Security Council statement of 8 January 1993, I wish to clarify the following points:

1. The decision which we notified to the Special Commission concerning the discontinuance of the use of foreign aircraft for its operations is a temporary decision dictated by the United States threats to Iraq. Any foreign flights in Iraqi airspace will be surrounded by danger in the present circumstances.

2. We have already requested the Chairman of the Special Commission to use Iraqi aircraft for United Nations missions in Iraq and have discussed the need for so doing with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Special Commission does not have its own aircraft, as the note of Mr. Rolf Ekéus tries to suggest, but leases aircraft from States for the said missions. Why, then, does it not lease aircraft from Iraq?

While Iraqi aircraft stand parked and rusting in the airports of various countries, the United Nations leases foreign aircraft at Iraq's expense. Ignoring this request by Iraq shows arbitrariness and amounts to a deliberate refusal to comply with a legitimate request. Our request in this connection must be given earnest consideration.

3. The allegation that Iraq has stopped or hampered the missions of the Special Commission in Iraq is incorrect. The United Nations teams can either use Iraqi aircraft as they are available or come by land (via Amman-Baghdad). All Iraqis and Iraqi high officials use that means when travelling.

The people and Government of Iraq cannot consider the United Nations teams as higher in rank than the citizens of Iraq and Iraqi officials.

The dealings of the United Nations with a free and sovereign State ought to be marked by propriety. The insolent manner adopted by some of those in charge of United Nations missions is absolutely unacceptable, and it is this that should be condemned, not the legitimate positions and requests of an independent country that is a founding Member of the United Nations.

I hope that this letter will be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq
Baghdad, 9 January 1993